



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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For Immediate Release – October 19, 2004

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PSC Seeks Public Comment on CenturyTel Proposal

MADISON – The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) is accepting written public comments until November 5th regarding CenturyTel's request to adopt a new alternative regulation plan in eight service territories. The eight CenturyTel companies included in the application are:

CenturyTel of Fairwater-Barndon-Alto, Inc.
CenturyTel of Forestville, Inc.
CenturyTel of Larsen-Readfield, Inc.
CenturyTel of Northern Wisconsin, Inc.

CenturyTel of Northwest Wisconsin, Inc.
CenturyTel of Southern Wisconsin, Inc.
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, Inc.
CenturyTel of Wisconsin, Inc.

An alternative regulation plan sets rules on how a telephone company can increase its rates, along with setting consumer protection requirements.

CenturyTel filed an application in April 2004 to adopt a new plan that would give CenturyTel the flexibility to raise basic residential local rates up to 10 percent each year. In its application, CenturyTel states that the proposed plan will encourage competition, expand infrastructure and improve service quality.

CenturyTel's current plan is incentive-based and allows up to an 8.5% rate increase each year. It also requires a rate decrease if CenturyTel does not meet customer service levels. The proposed plan is not incentive-based and does not tie rate changes to customer service or infrastructure improvements.

The Commission will have several choices in making its decision in this case: (1) it can approve, modify or deny the proposed plan, (2) it can renew the current plan, or (3) it can renew the existing plan with modifications. The Commission will also determine the amount of time the alternative regulation plan will be in effect.

Written comments should be submitted to the PSC **by November 5, 2004**. Please include docket number 2050-TI-101 on written comments addressed to:

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Comments received on or before November 5th will be made available to the Commission for review.

(END)